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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
TM
ONE WAY
LOADING ZONE
SPIDEY FACES THE WET THREAT OF
HYDRO-MAN!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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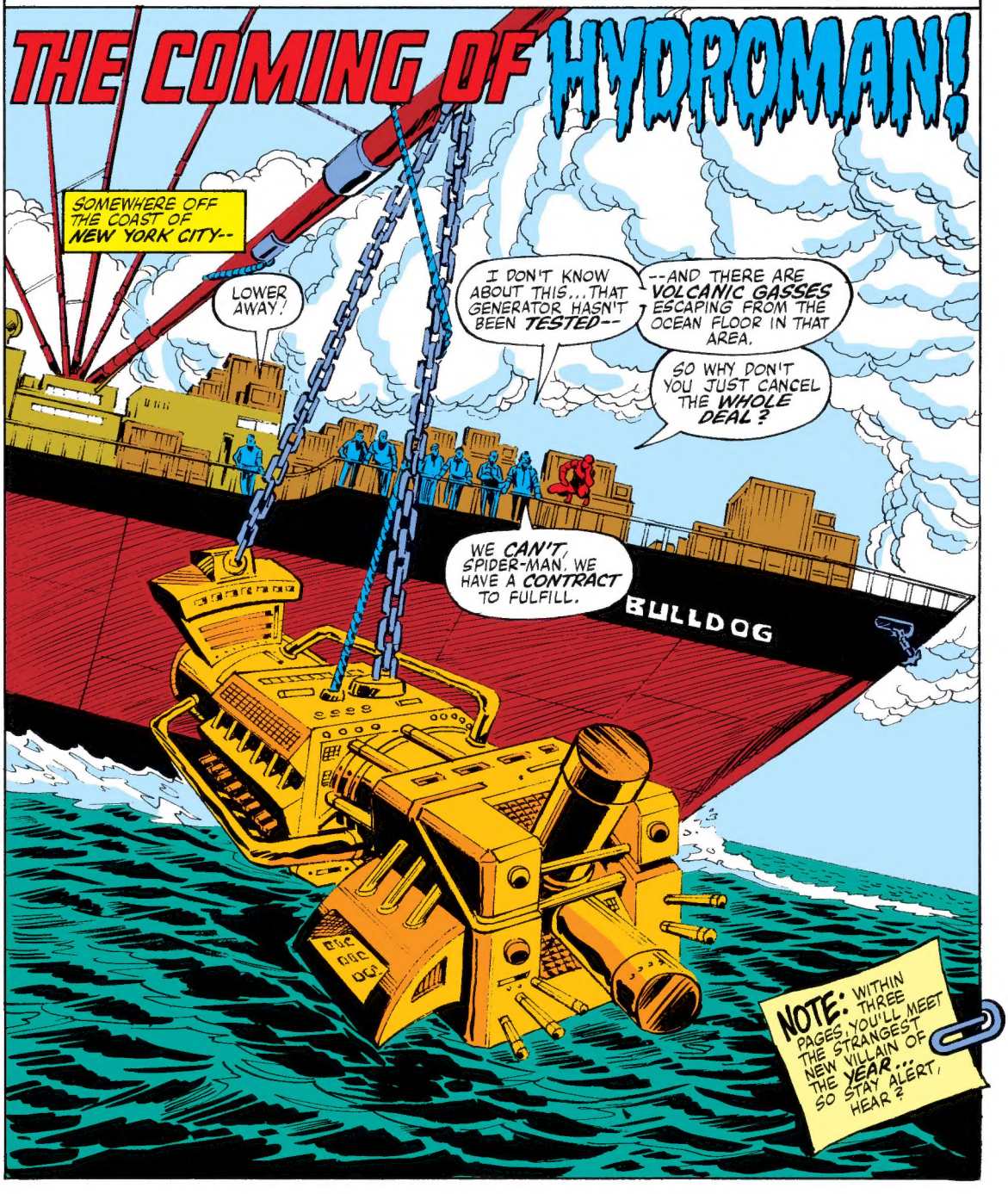

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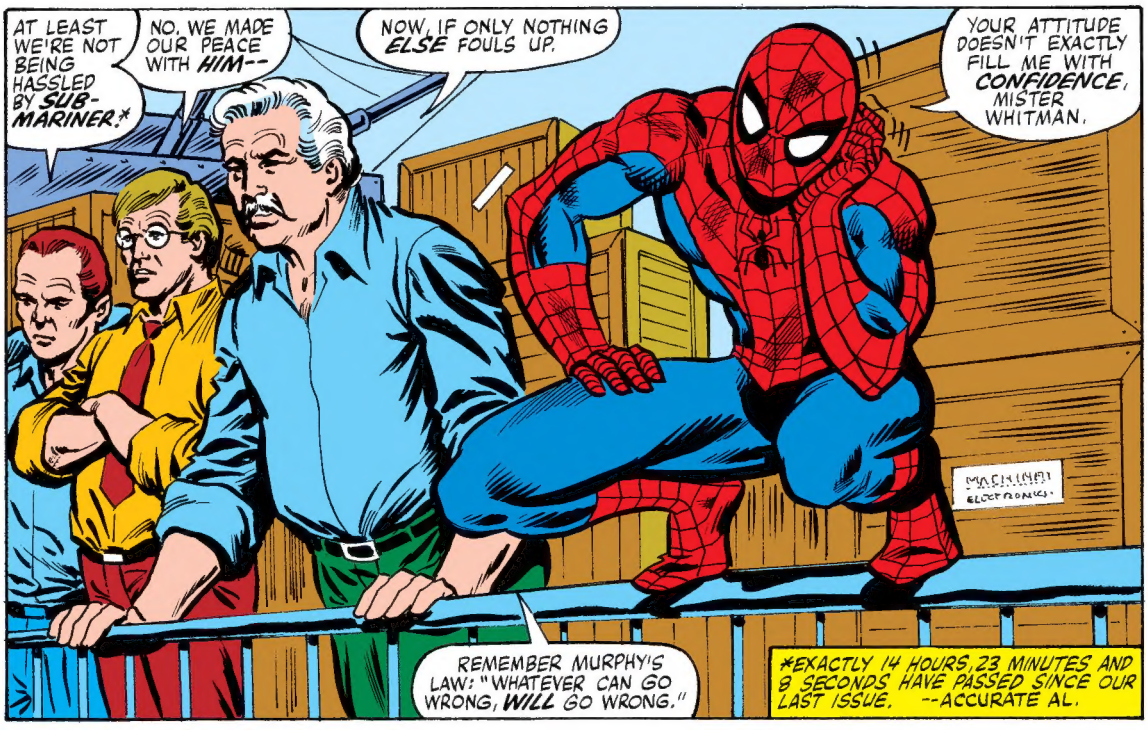
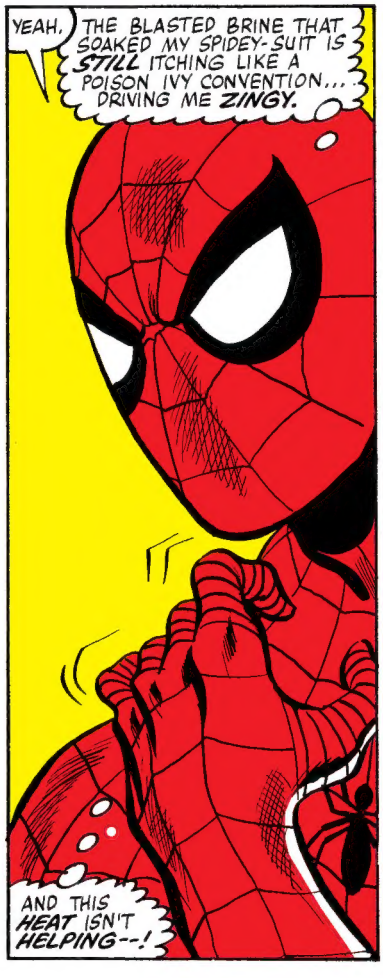
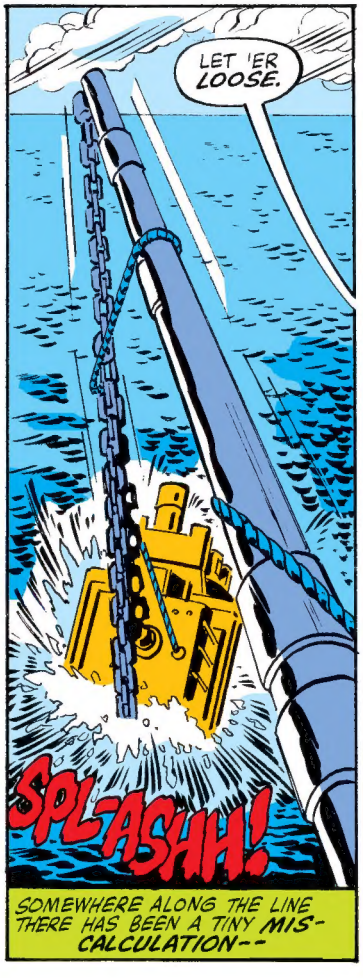
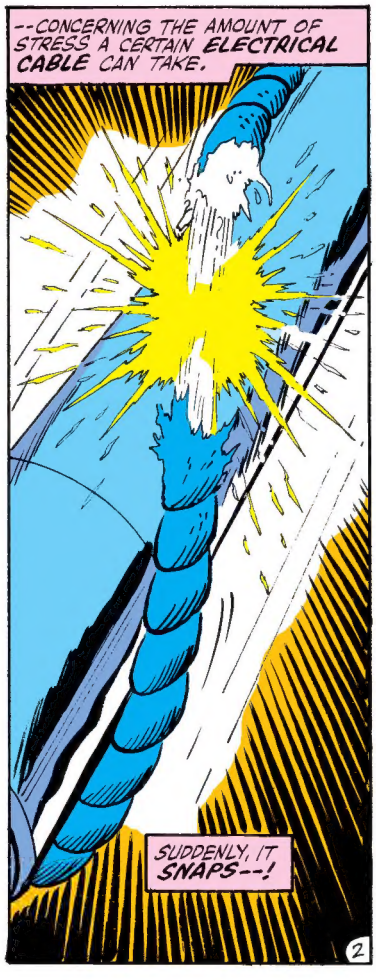
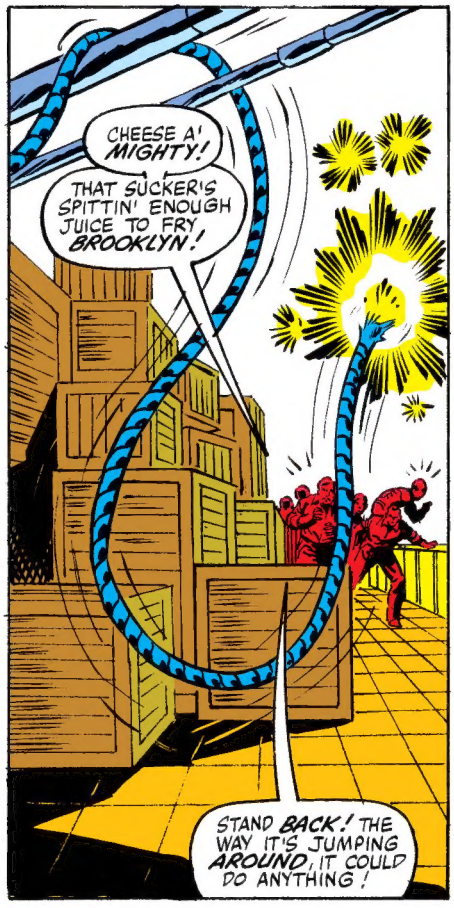

AT LEAST WE'RE NOT BEING HASSLED BY SUB-MARINER.*
NO, WE MADE OUR PEACE WITH HIM--
NOW, IF ONLY NOTHING ELSE FOULS UP.
YOUR ATTITUDE DOESN'T EXACTLY FILL ME WITH CONFIDENCE, MISTER WHITMAN.
REMEMBER MURPHY'S LAW: "WHATEVER CAN GO WRONG, WILL GO WRONG."
*EXACTLY 14 HOURS, 23 MINUTES AND 9 SECONDS HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE. --ACCURATE AL.


YEAH, THE BLASTED BRINE THAT SOAKED MY SPIDEY-SUIT IS STILL ITCHING LIKE A POISON IVY CONVENTION... DRIVING ME ZINGY.
AND THIS HEAT ISN'T HELPING--!


LET 'ER LOOSE.
SPLASHH!
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE THERE HAS BEEN A TINY MIS-CALCULATION--

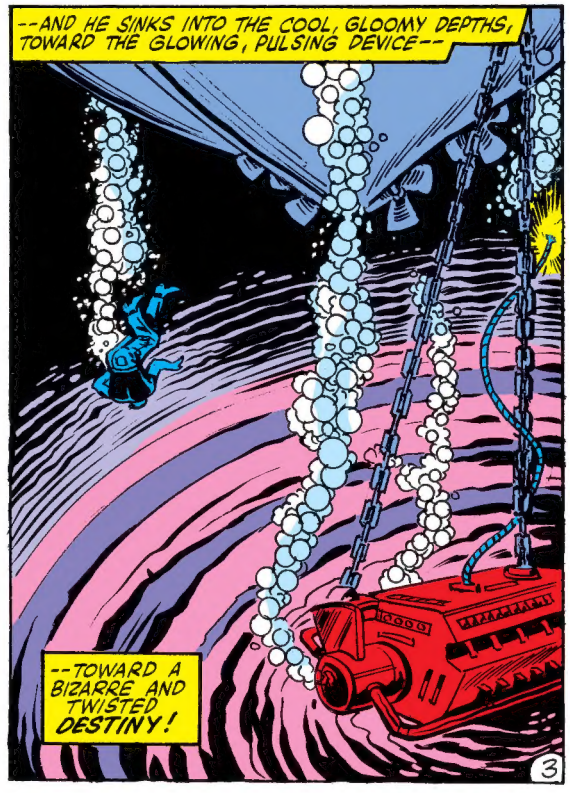

--CONCERNING THE AMOUNT OF STRESS A CERTAIN ELECTRICAL CABLE CAN TAKE.
SUDDENLY, IT SNAPS--!

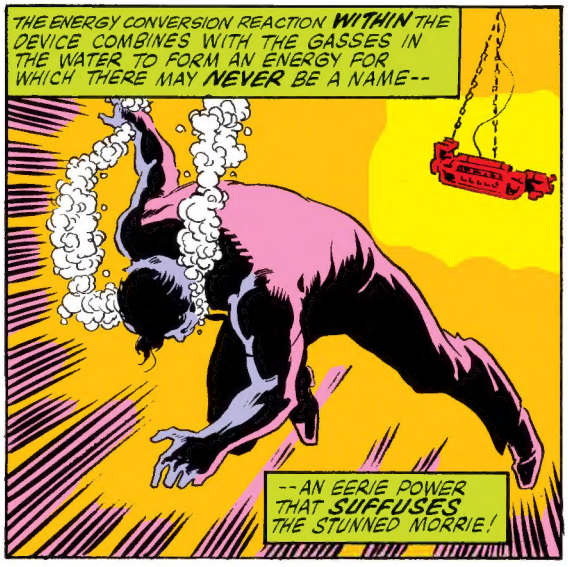

CHEESE A' MIGHTY!
THAT SUCKER'S SPITTIN' ENOUGH JUICE TO FRY BROOKLYN!
STAND BACK! THE WAY IT'S JUMPING AROUND, IT COULD DO ANYTHING!

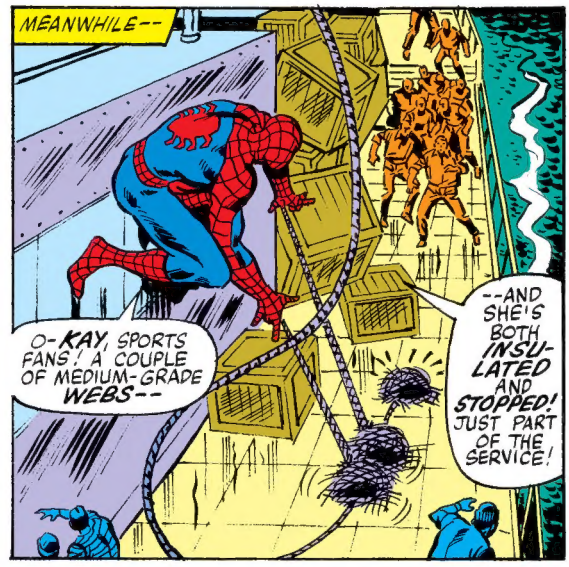
WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT OVER THERE?!
I SHOULD CARE? I AIN'T ON DUTY!
YOU BEAT A FLUSH?

GANGWAY!
GOTTA GET TO SOMEPLACE WHERE I CAN SNARE THAT THING!
HEY--
INTENT ON DEALING WITH THE IMMEDIATE DANGER--

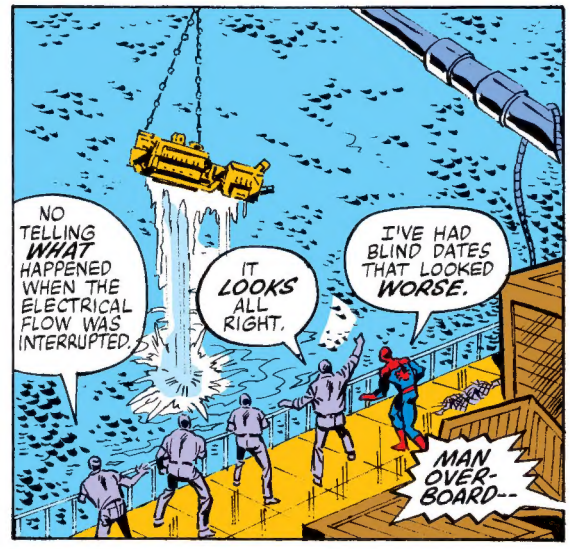
--SPIDER-MAN DOES NOT REALIZE THE CRATES HE HEAVES ASIDE ARE KNOCKING ONE OF THE POKER PLAYERS OVERBOARD...
A BLOW TO THE HEAD RENDERS MORRIE BENCH UNCONSCIOUS--

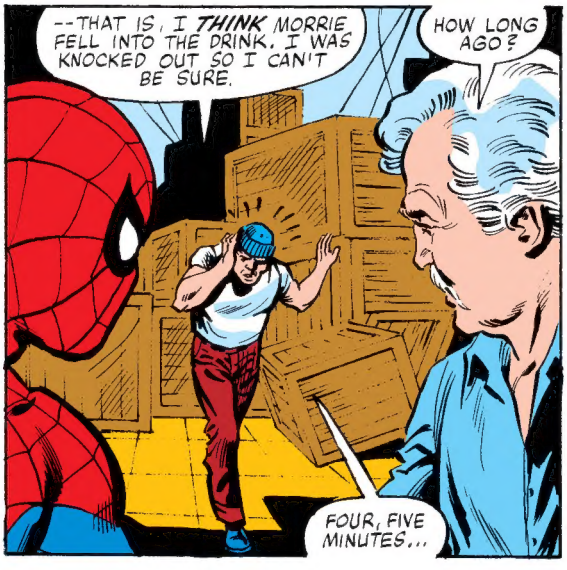

--AND HE SINKS INTO THE COOL, GLOOMY DEPTHS, TOWARD THE GLOWING, PULSING DEVICE--
--TOWARD A BIZARRE AND TWISTED DESTINY!

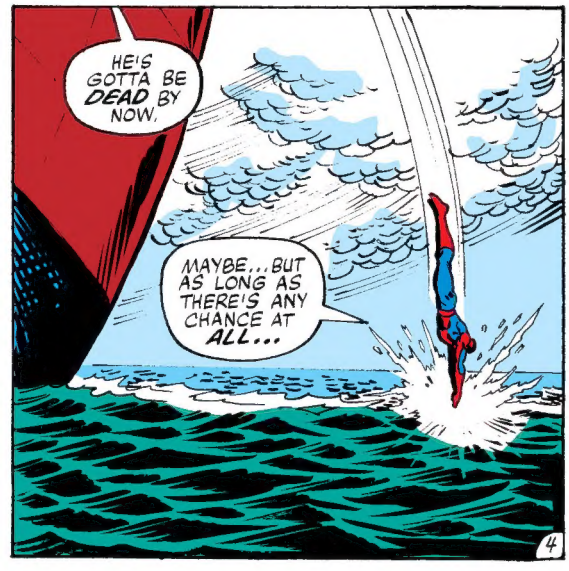

THE ENERGY CONVERSION REACTION WITHIN THE DEVICE COMBINES WITH THE GASSES IN THE WATER TO FORM AN ENERGY FOR WHICH THERE MAY NEVER BE A NAME--
--AN EERIE POWER THAT SUFFUSES THE STUNNED MORRIE!

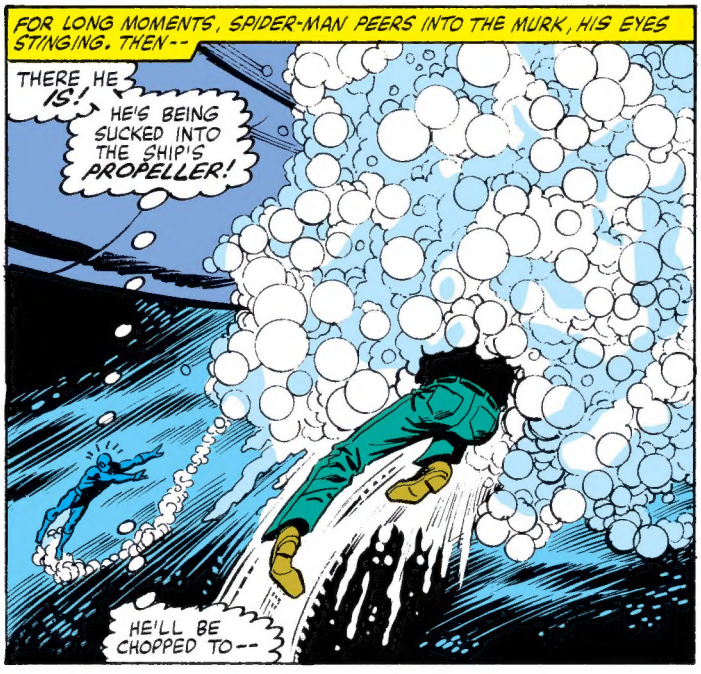

MEANWHILE--
O-KAY, SPORTS FANS! A COUPLE OF MEDIUM-GRADE WEBS--
--AND SHE'S BOTH INSULATED AND STOPPED! JUST PART OF THE SERVICE!

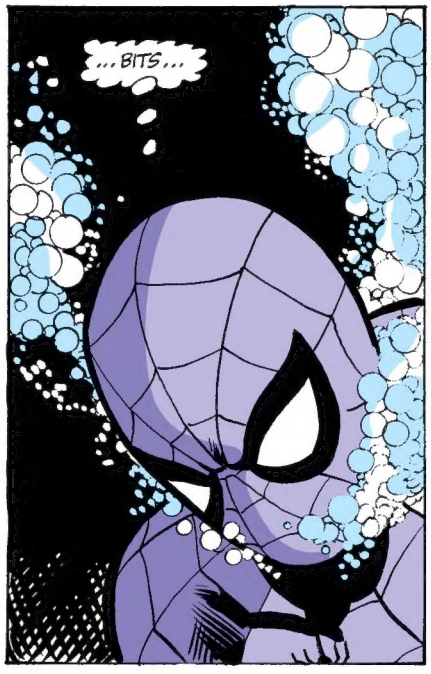
YOU CAN HOLD THE APPLAUSE... I'M KINDA SHY--
HAUL UP THAT MACHINE!

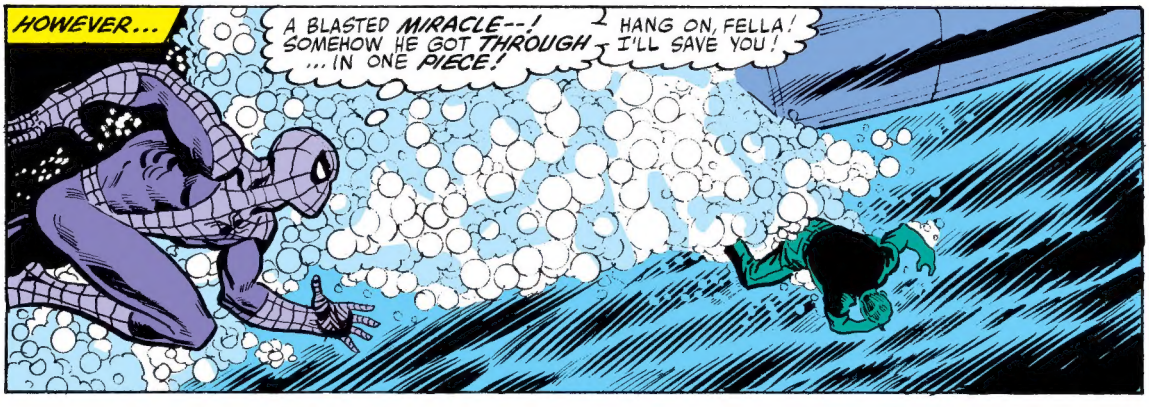

NO TELLING WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE ELECTRICAL FLOW WAS INTERRUPTED.
IT LOOKS ALL RIGHT.
I'VE HAD BLIND DATES THAT LOOKED WORSE.
MAN OVER-BOARD--

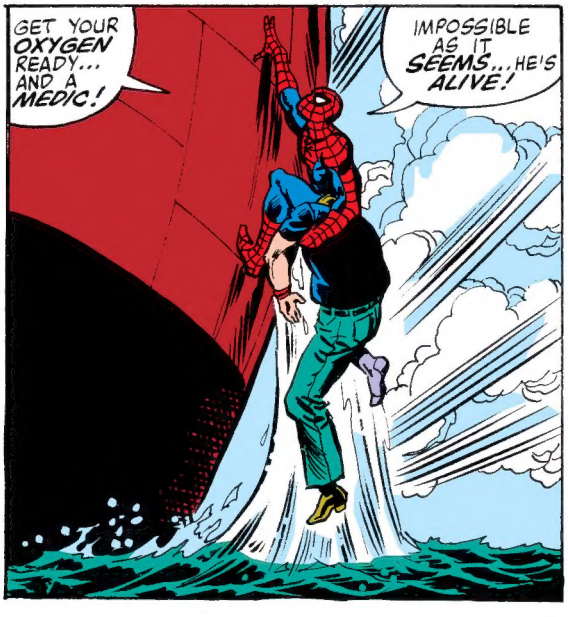

--THAT IS, I THINK MORRIE FELL INTO THE DRINK. I WAS KNOCKED OUT SO I CAN'T BE SURE.
HOW LONG AGO?
FOUR, FIVE MINUTES...

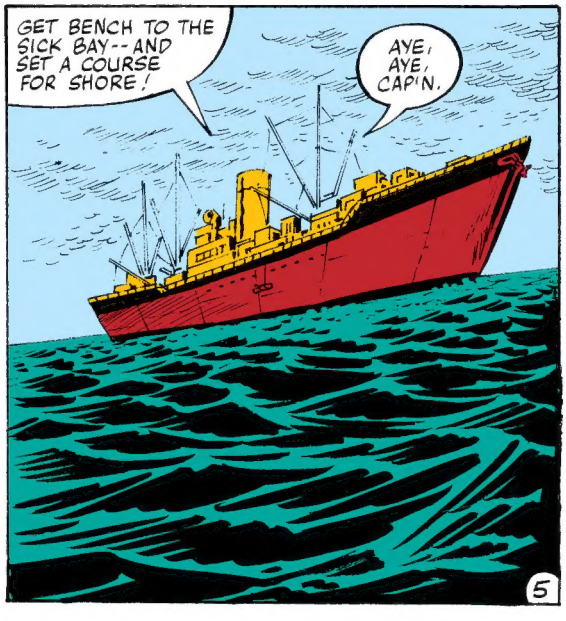

HE'S GOTTA BE DEAD BY NOW.
MAYBE...BUT AS LONG AS THERE'S ANY CHANCE AT ALL...

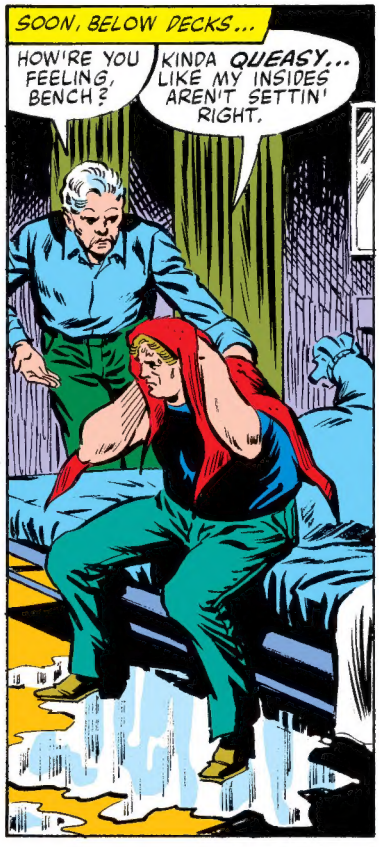

FOR LONG MOMENTS, SPIDER-MAN PEERS INTO THE MURK, HIS EYES STINGING. THEN--
THERE HE IS!
HE'S BEING SUCKED INTO THE SHIP'S PROPELLER!
HE'LL BE CHOPPED TO--


...BITS...


HOWEVER...
A BLASTED MIRACLE--! SOMEHOW HE GOT THROUGH ...IN ONE PIECE!
HANG ON, FELLA! I'LL SAVE YOU!

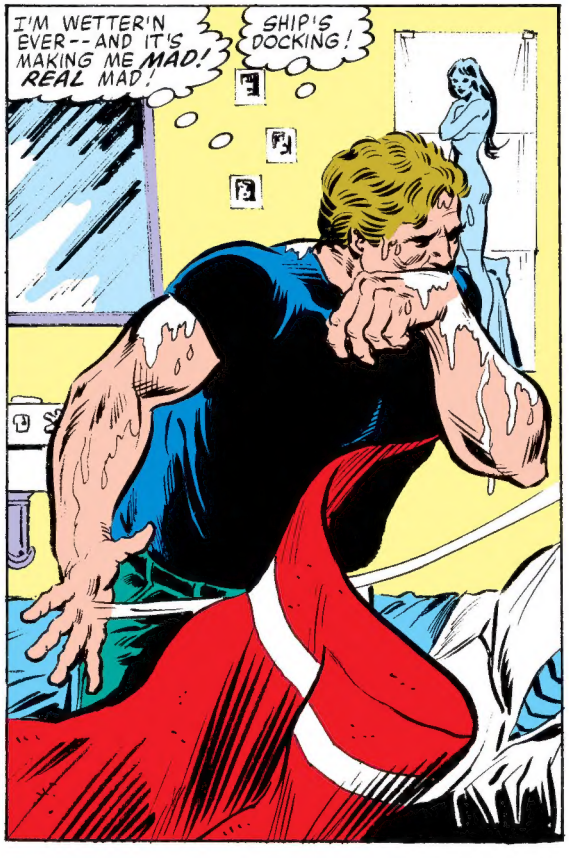

GET YOUR OXYGEN READY... AND A MEDIC!
IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS...HE'S ALIVE!

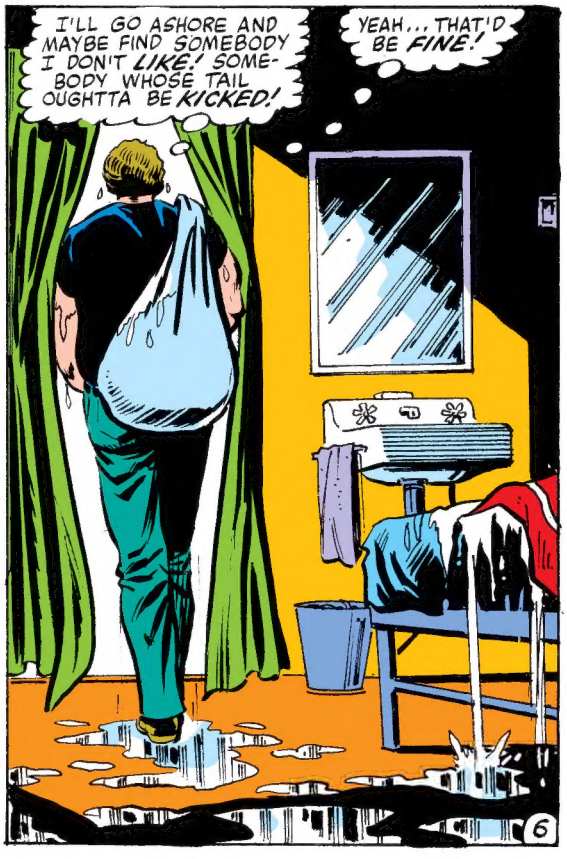

GET BENCH TO THE SICK BAY--AND SET A COURSE FOR SHORE!
AYE, AYE, CAP'N.


SOON, BELOW DECKS...
HOW'RE YOU FEELING, BENCH?
KINDA QUEASY... LIKE MY INSIDES AREN'T SETTIN' RIGHT.

PROBABLY JUST A REACTION TO SHOCK! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, HOLLER.
SURE.
FUNNY... I BEEN RUBBIN' AND RUBBIN'--

--AND I CAN'T SEEM TO GET DRIED OFF.

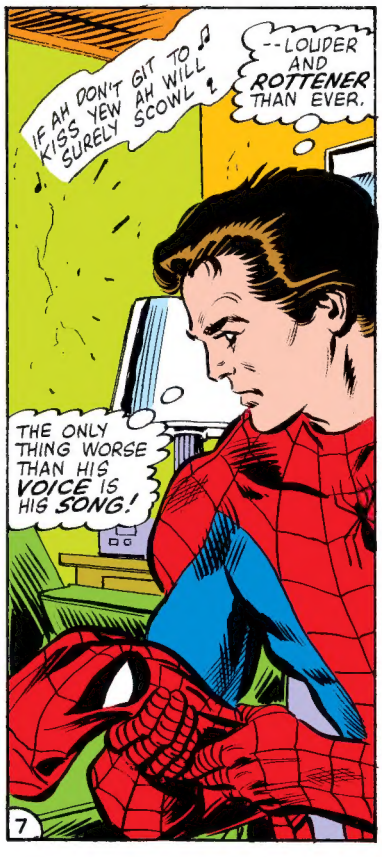

I'M WETTER'N EVER--AND IT'S MAKING ME MAD! REAL MAD!
SHIP'S DOCKING!

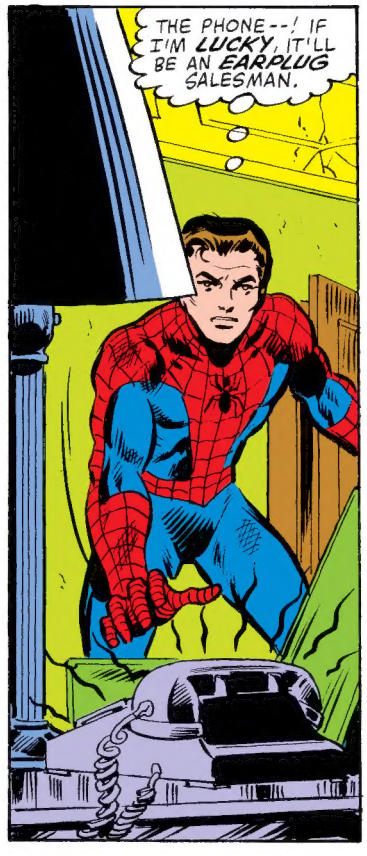

I'LL GO ASHORE AND MAYBE FIND SOMEBODY I DON'T LIKE! SOMEBODY WHOSE TAIL OUGHTTA BE KICKED!
YEAH... THAT'D BE FINE!

AS MORRIE BENCH MOVES INTO A TWILIT MANHATTAN SEARCHING FOR VIOLENCE--

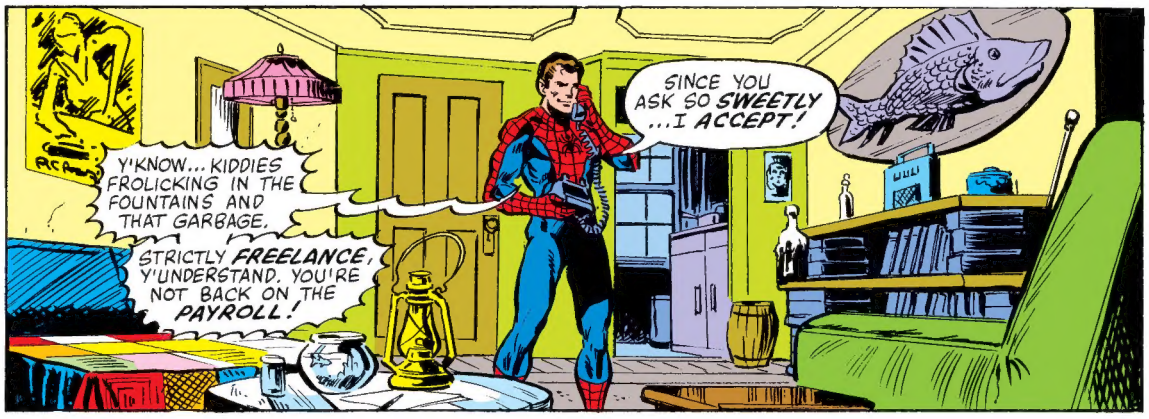
--HIS COLORFULLY-CLAD SHIPMATE SKIMS THE ROOFTOPS SEEKING RELIEF...
SHEEE-SH! THE WHOLE CITY IS ONE ENORMOUS STEAMBATH! IF I DON'T GET OUT OF THIS ITCHY OUTFIT AND INTO A COLD SHOWER, I'LL MELT!

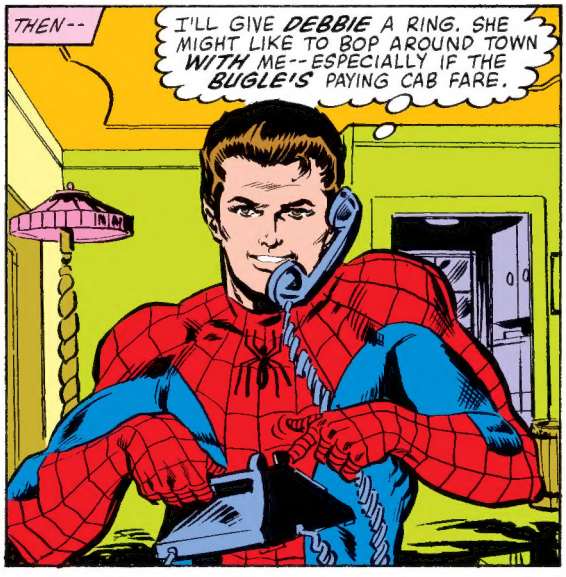
♫ MAXINE, MAXINE, YEW ARE MAH HONEY DOLL ♪
AW, NO! THIS I EMPHATICALLY DO NOT NEED... MY NEW NEIGHBOR IS SINGING AGAIN--


IF AH DON'T GIT TO ♪ KISS YEW AH WILL SURELY SCOWL ♪
--LOUDER AND ROTTENER THAN EVER.
THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN HIS VOICE IS HIS SONG!


THE PHONE--! IF I'M LUCKY, IT'LL BE AN EARPLUG SALESMAN.

IN FACT, IT IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM A PURVEYOR OF QUIETUDE! IT'S J. JONAH JAMESON, EDITOR OF THE DAILY BUGLE...
PARKER! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU ALL DAY!
LISTEN... YOU INTERESTED IN SOME WORK?
I WANT YOU TO SHOOT A COUPLE DOZEN HUMAN INTEREST PIX... STUFF ABOUT HOW THE CITIZENS ARE COPING WITH THE HEAT WAVE!

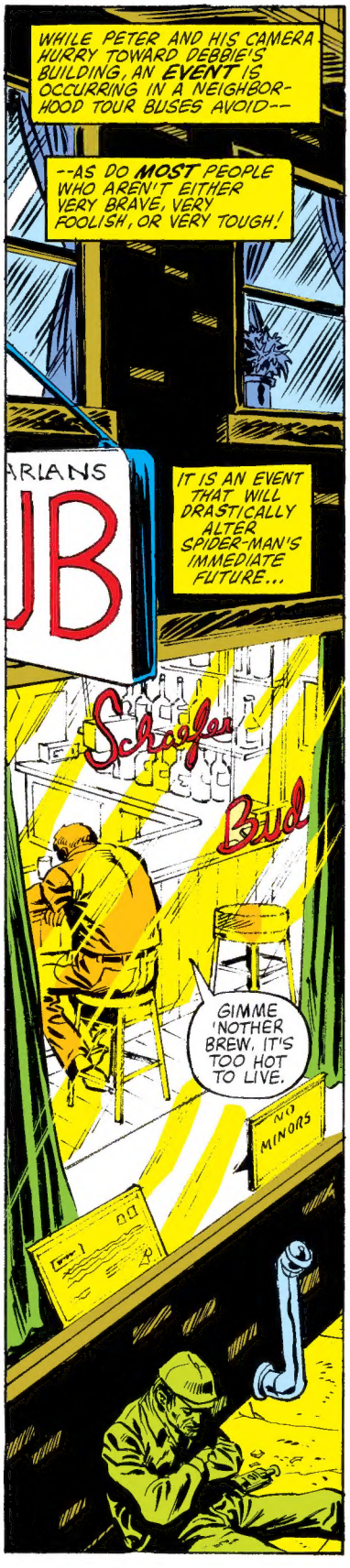

Y'KNOW... KIDDIES FROLICKING IN THE FOUNTAINS AND THAT GARBAGE.
STRICTLY FREELANCE, Y'UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE NOT BACK ON THE PAYROLL!
SINCE YOU ASK SO SWEETLY ...I ACCEPT!

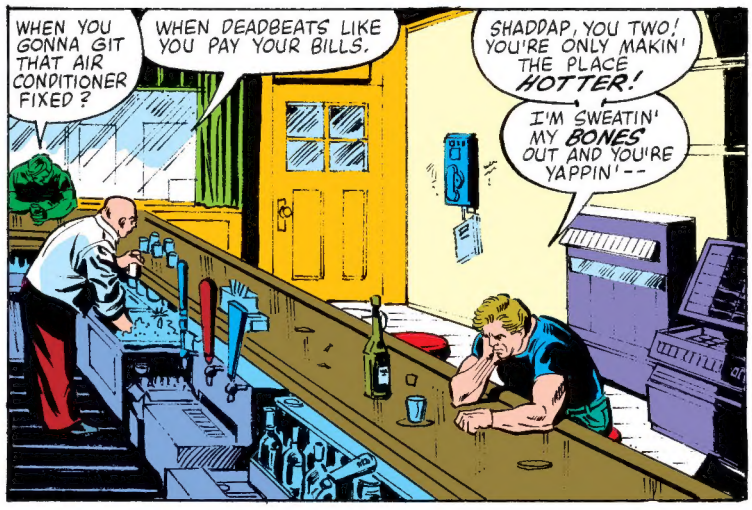

THEN--
I'LL GIVE DEBBIE A RING. SHE MIGHT LIKE TO BOP AROUND TOWN WITH ME--ESPECIALLY IF THE BUGLE'S PAYING CAB FARE.

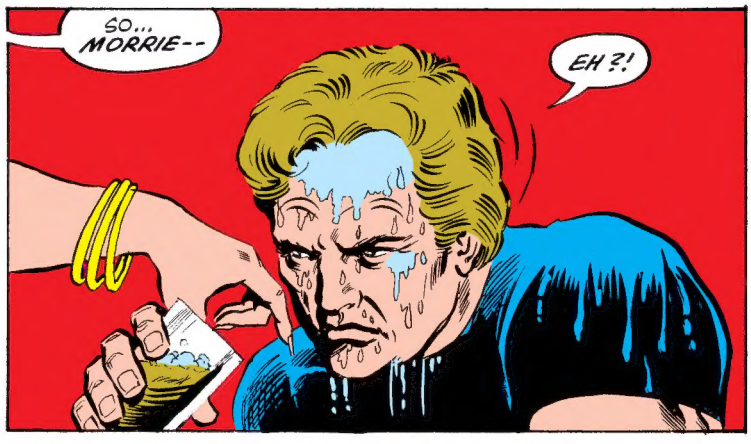
AT DEBBIE WHITMAN'S EASTSIDE APARTMENT...
PROBABLY ANOTHER RELATIVE CALLING TO TELL ME ABOUT SPIDER-MAN AND MY UNCLE.
THAT'LL BE THE EIGHTH--

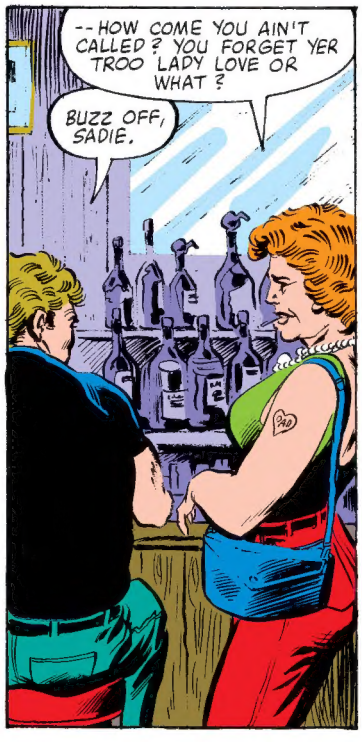
HOWEVER--
PETER! HOW NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
YOU BUSY, DEB?
WELL... I WAS GOING TO TURN ON THE TUBE AND BAKE BROWNIES...

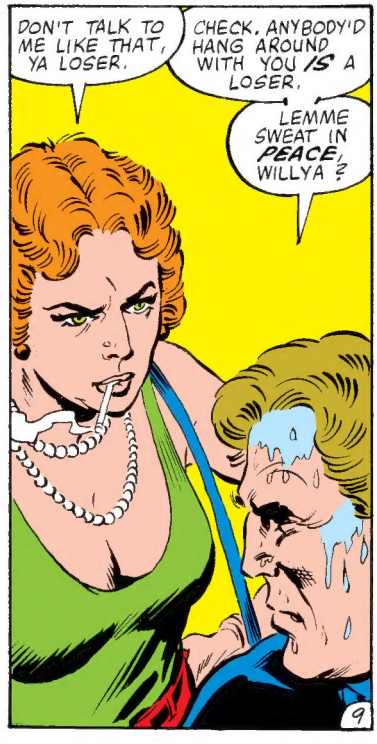
CANCEL THAT! YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME PLAY INTREPID PHOTO JOURNALIST. SEE YOU IN AN HOUR?
I-I'LL BE READY.

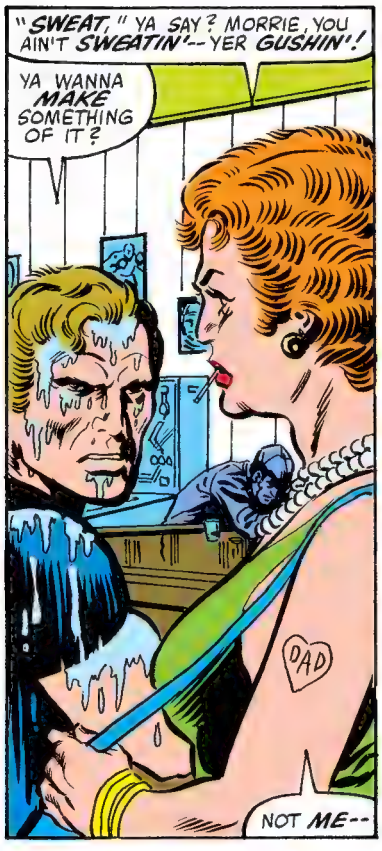

WHILE PETER AND HIS CAMERA HURRY TOWARD DEBBIE'S BUILDING, AN EVENT IS OCCURRING IN A NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR BUSES AVOID--
--AS DO MOST PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EITHER VERY BRAVE, VERY FOOLISH, OR VERY TOUGH!
IT IS AN EVENT THAT WILL DRASTICALLY ALTER SPIDER-MAN'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE...
Schaefer
Bud
GIMME 'NOTHER BREW. IT'S TOO HOT TO LIVE.
NO MINORS


WHEN YOU GONNA GIT THAT AIR CONDITIONER FIXED?
WHEN DEADBEATS LIKE YOU PAY YOUR BILLS.
SHADDAP, YOU TWO! YOU'RE ONLY MAKIN' THE PLACE HOTTER!
I'M SWEATIN' MY BONES OUT AND YOU'RE YAPPIN'--

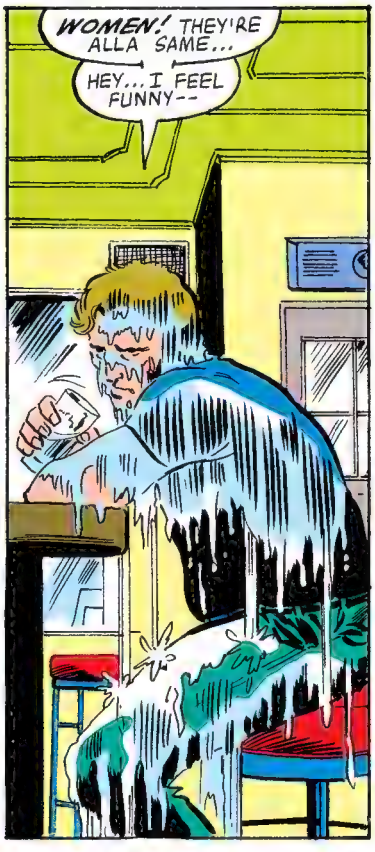

SO... MORRIE--
EH?!

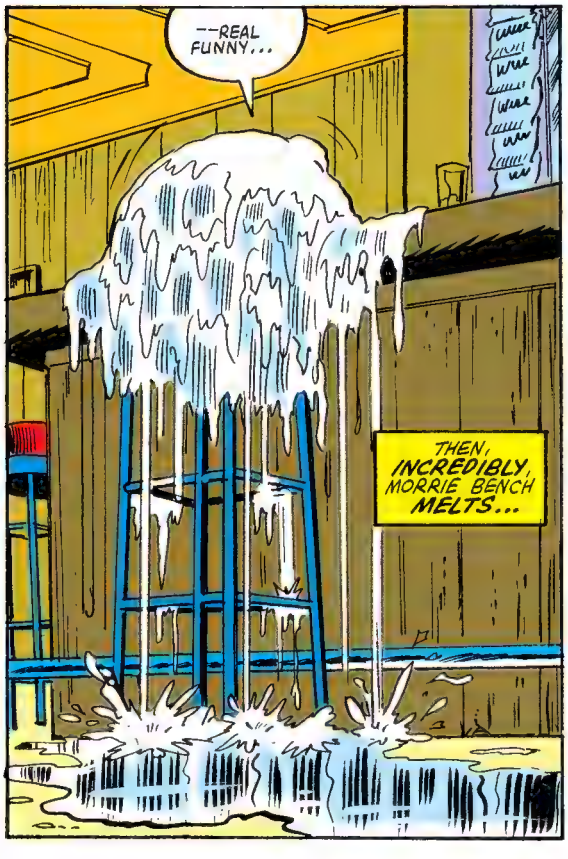

--HOW COME YOU AIN'T CALLED? YOU FORGET YER TROO LADY LOVE OR WHAT?
BUZZ OFF, SADIE.

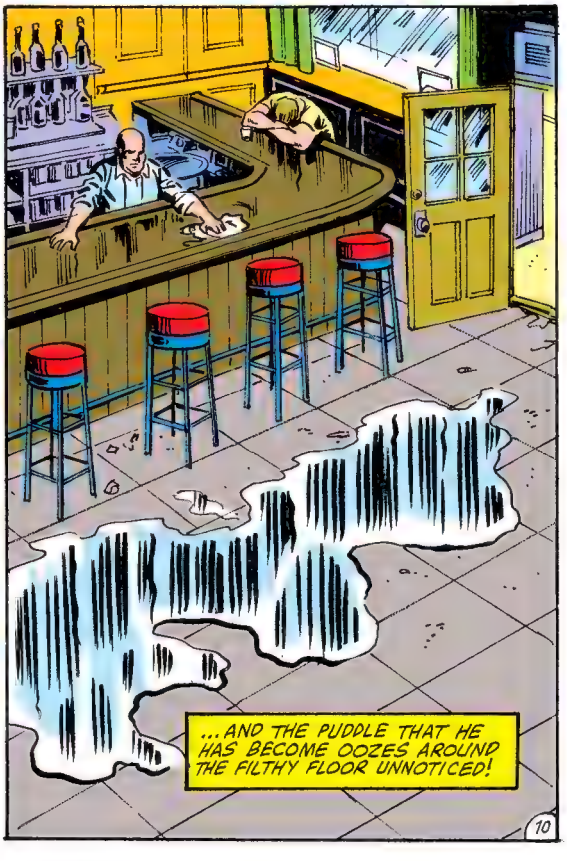

DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, YA LOSER.
CHECK. ANYBODY'D HANG AROUND WITH YOU IS A LOSER.
LEMME SWEAT IN PEACE, WILLYA?

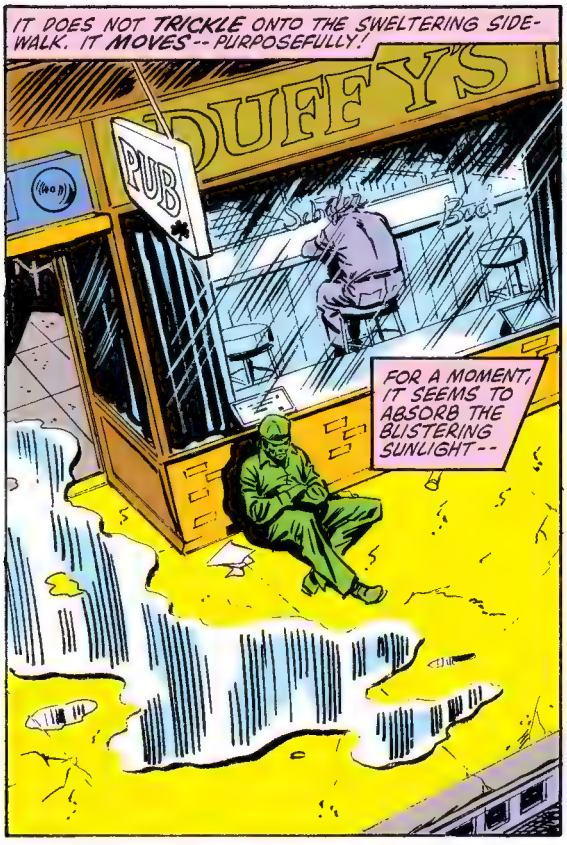

"SWEAT," YA SAY? MORRIE, YOU AIN'T SWEATIN'--YER GUSHIN'!
YA WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?
DAD
NOT ME--

--I'M JUST GONNA FIND A MAN WHO AIN'T A WALKIN' NIAGARA FALLS.
GOOD RIDDANCE.


WOMEN! THEY'RE ALLA SAME...
HEY... I FEEL FUNNY--

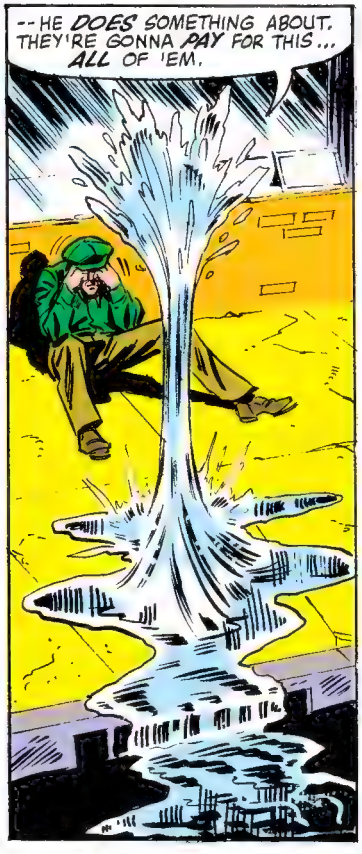

--REAL FUNNY...
THEN, INCREDIBLY, MORRIE BENCH MELTS...


...AND THE PUDDLE THAT HE HAS BECOME OOZES AROUND THE FILTHY FLOOR UNNOTICED!

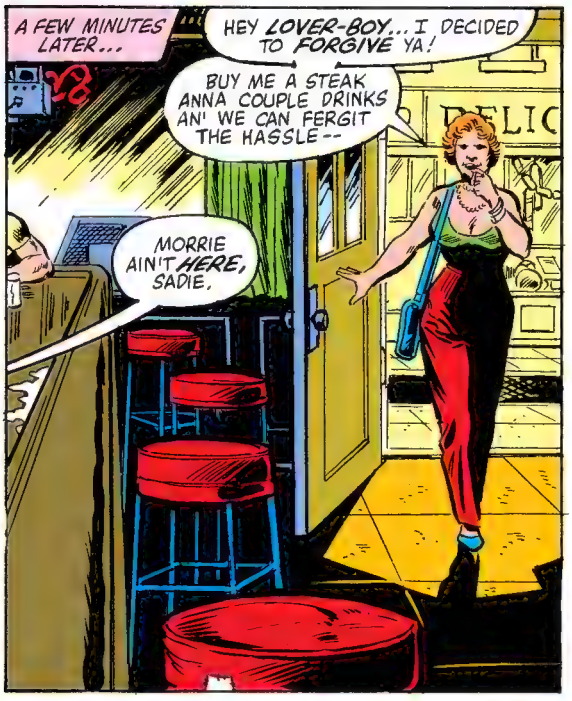

IT DOES NOT TRICKLE ONTO THE SWELTERING SIDEWALK. IT MOVES -- PURPOSEFULLY!
DUFFY'S
PUB
FOR A MOMENT, IT SEEMS TO ABSORB THE BLISTERING SUNLIGHT --

THEN, INCREDIBLY --
YEAH, YEAH, I WAS WORRIED FOR A SECOND THERE. BUT I CAN PULL MYSELF TOGETHER AGAIN.

I GOTTA FACE IT... I'VE BECOME A FREAK!
AND I DON'T LIKE IT -- AND WHAT MORRIE BENCH DON'T LIKE --

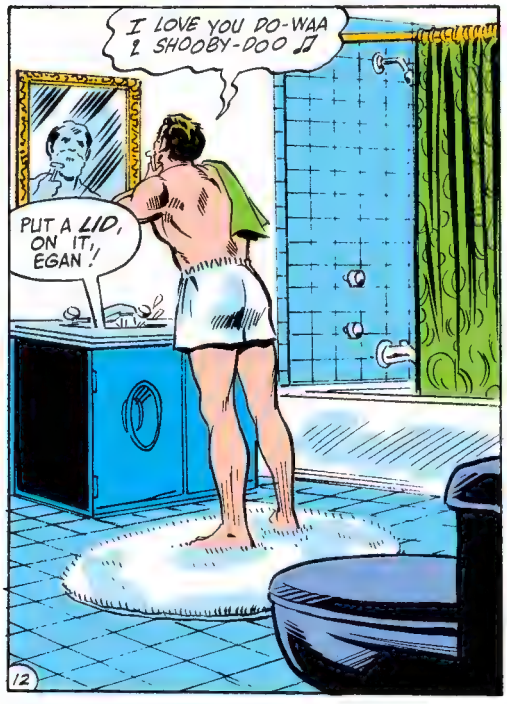

-- HE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT. THEY'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS... ALL OF 'EM.

SPIDER-MAN'LL BE THE HARDEST --
-- SO I'LL GET HIM FIRST!

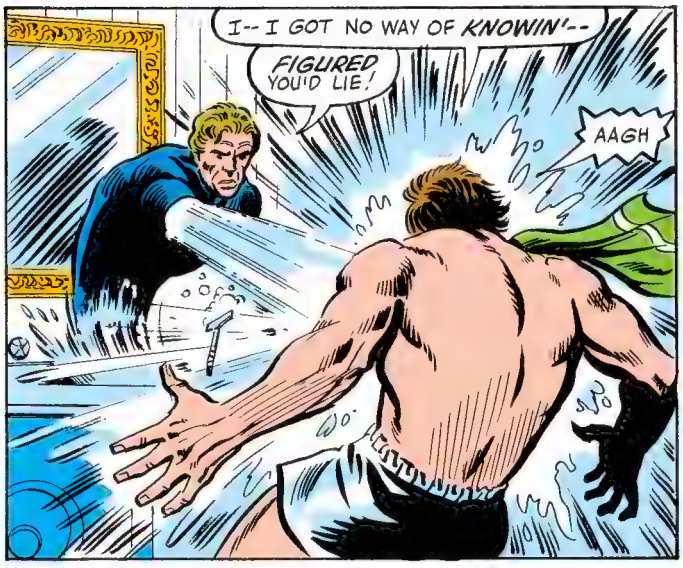

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
HEY LOVER-BOY... I DECIDED TO FORGIVE YA!
BUY ME A STEAK ANNA COUPLE DRINKS AN' WE CAN FERGIT THE HASSLE--
MORRIE AIN'T HERE, SADIE.

THE CREEP! HE PROLLY WENT OFF TO FIND SOME CHEAP, GOLD-DIGGIN' FLOOZY!
HE AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A DRIP.
IF SADIE KNEW WHAT MORRIE BENCH HAD BECOME, HER INSULT WOULD BE IN UNFORGIVABLE BAD TASTE...

OTHERS ARE SOON TO LEARN OF MORRIE'S BIZARRE FATE--
--PATROLMAN HY EGAN, FOR EXAMPLE. AT THE MOMENT, OFFICER EGAN IS IN HIS MIDTOWN APARTMENT PREPARING FOR A HEAVY DATE...
♪ GOIL OF ♫ MY DREAMS


I LOVE YOU DO-WAA ♪ SHOOBY-DOO ♫
PUT A LID, ON IT, EGAN!

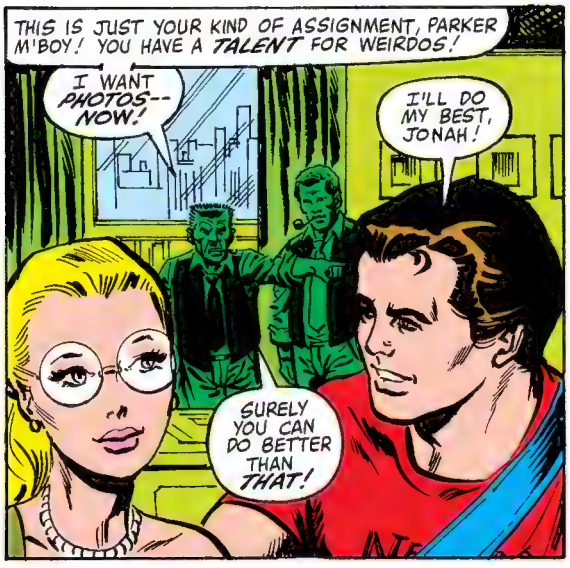
BENCH! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
SO YOU REMEMBER ME FROM THE TIME YOU BUSTED ME ON THAT STUPID SMUGGLING RAP!
I CAME HERE TO ASK YOU A QUESTION-- LIKE WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN!

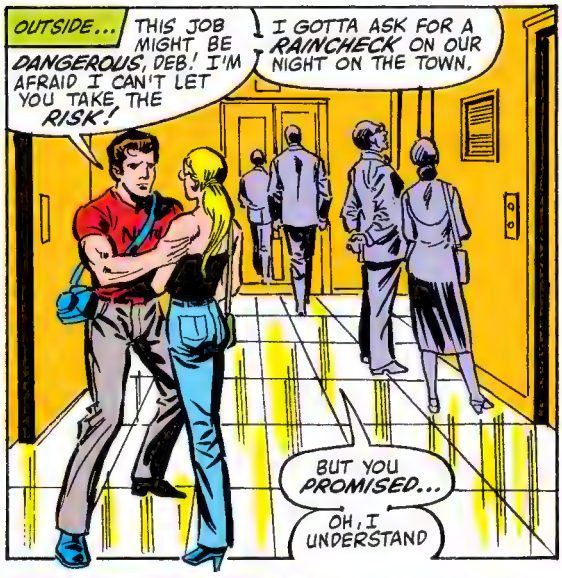

I-- I GOT NO WAY OF KNOWIN'--
FIGURED YOU'D LIE!
AAGH

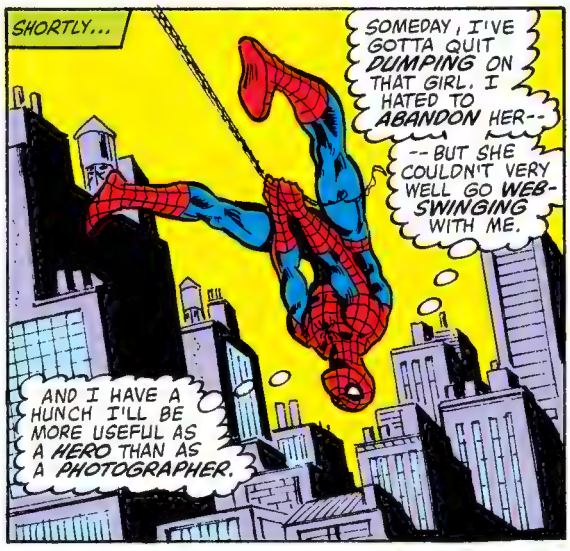
I DON'T NEED HIS INFO. ALL I GOTTA DO IS SEARCH THE CITY... ROOM BY ROOM IF I GOTTA! IT'LL TAKE TIME--
--BUT THAT I GOT PLENTY OF.
THERE ARE THOSE WHO MIGHT SAY MORRIE BENCH HAS BECOME UNHINGED BY HIS METAMORPHOSIS...

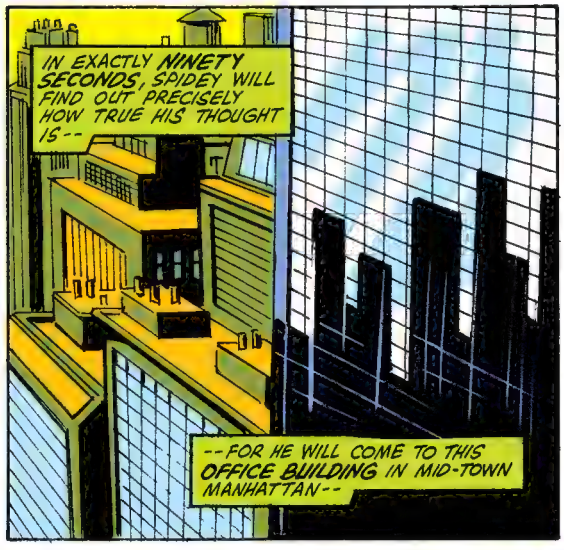
...AND WHO COULD HONESTLY ARGUE THE VERACITY OF THAT OBSERVATION?
TRAVELING THROUGH THE SEWERS AND PIPES AND DRAINS OF NEW YORK, MORRIE BENCH BEGINS HIS VENGEFUL QUEST...
LUCKY FOR YOU--
--THAT YOU AIN'T--
--SPIDER-MAN!
YOU... YOU DEFINITELY AIN'T SPIDER-MAN!

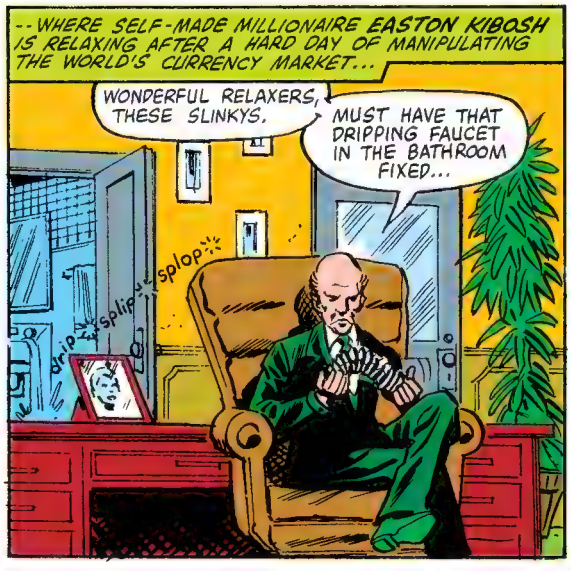
MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICES OF A LEADING NEWS JOURNAL--
BUGLE
YOU'RE LATE, PARKER! WORKING FOR THE COMPETITION HASN'T CHANGED YOU A BIT, EH?
YOU WOULDN'T LOVE ME IF IT HAD--
--WOULD YOU? I'M READY TO SHOOT PIX OF BROILED NEW YORKERS--
SKIP THAT! I GOT SOMETHING BIGGER ON TAP...
BY THE WAY, WHOSE YOUR CHARMING FRIEND, PARKER?
DEBORAH WHITMAN, MEET THE BUGLE'S EDITOR, J. JONAH JAMESON.
PETER'S TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU--
DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF IT.
ENCHANTED, MY DEAR.
WELL... ME TOO!
JONAH--
--THE NUT'S STRUCK AGAIN... ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE!
WHICH NUT, ROBBIE? NEW YORK'S GOT PLENTY OF THEM!
HEY, PETER--WELCOME BACK! WE MISSED YOU!
AS FOR THIS SCREWBALL, THE MEDIA GUYS ARE CALLING HIM HYDRO-MAN.
HE POPS OUT OF DRAINS--
--AND HE RANTS ABOUT SPIDER-MAN!


THIS IS JUST YOUR KIND OF ASSIGNMENT, PARKER M'BOY! YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR WEIRDOS!
I WANT PHOTOS-- NOW!
I'LL DO MY BEST, JONAH!
SURELY YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!

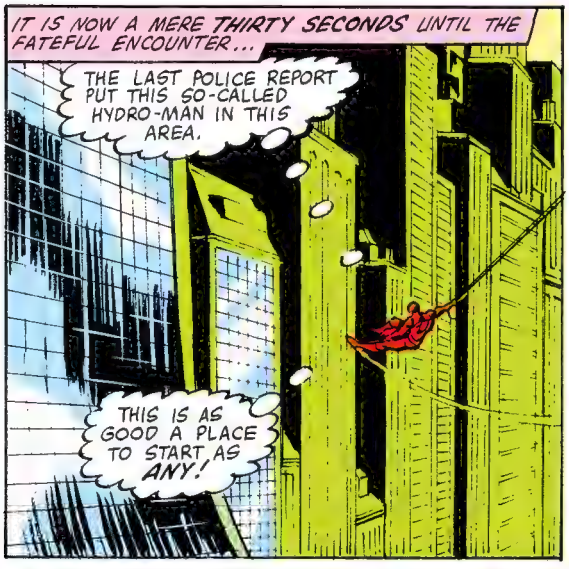

OUTSIDE...
THIS JOB MIGHT BE DANGEROUS, DEB! I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE THE RISK!
I GOTTA ASK FOR A RAINCHECK ON OUR NIGHT ON THE TOWN.
BUT YOU PROMISED...
OH, I UNDERSTAND

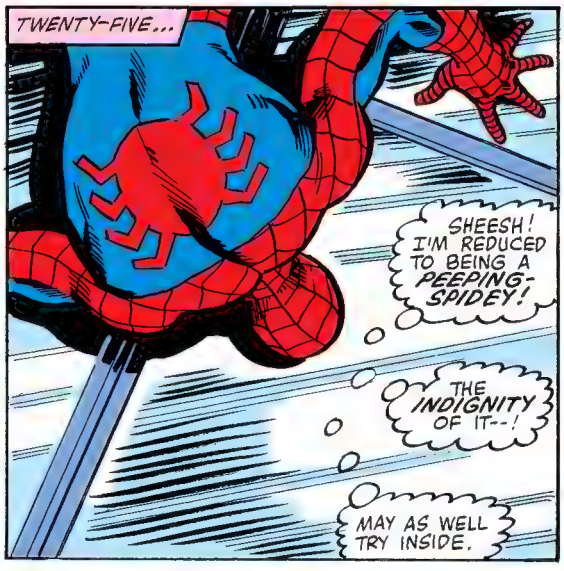

SHORTLY...
SOMEDAY, I'VE GOTTA QUIT DUMPING ON THAT GIRL. I HATED TO ABANDON HER--
--BUT SHE COULDN'T VERY WELL GO WEB-SWINGING WITH ME.
AND I HAVE A HUNCH I'LL BE MORE USEFUL AS A HERO THAN AS A PHOTOGRAPHER.


IN EXACTLY NINETY SECONDS, SPIDEY WILL FIND OUT PRECISELY HOW TRUE HIS THOUGHT IS--
--FOR HE WILL COME TO THIS OFFICE BUILDING IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN--

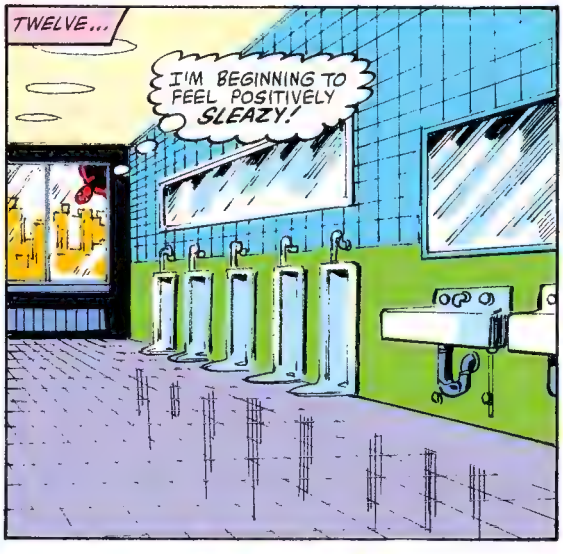

--WHERE SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE EASTON KIBOSH IS RELAXING AFTER A HARD DAY OF MANIPULATING THE WORLD'S CURRENCY MARKET...
WONDERFUL RELAXERS, THESE SLINKYS.
MUST HAVE THAT DRIPPING FAUCET IN THE BATHROOM FIXED...
drip
splip
splop

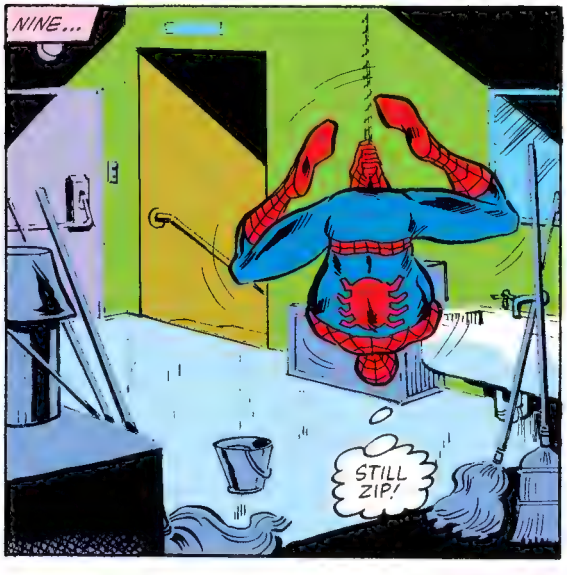
YOU SHOULDA DONE IT EARLIER... 'CAUSE IF YOU HAD, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE GOTTEN HURT!
YOU ARE GONNA GET HURT, Y'KNOW--MAYBE BAD!
EH?

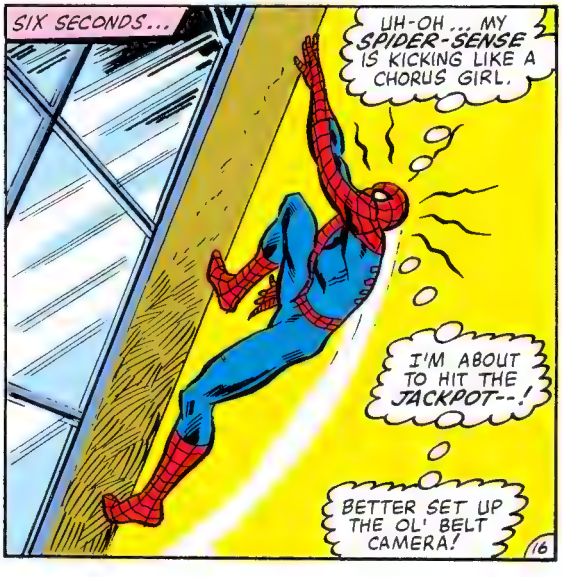

IT IS NOW A MERE THIRTY SECONDS UNTIL THE FATEFUL ENCOUNTER...
THE LAST POLICE REPORT PUT THIS SO-CALLED HYDRO-MAN IN THIS AREA.
THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE TO START AS ANY!

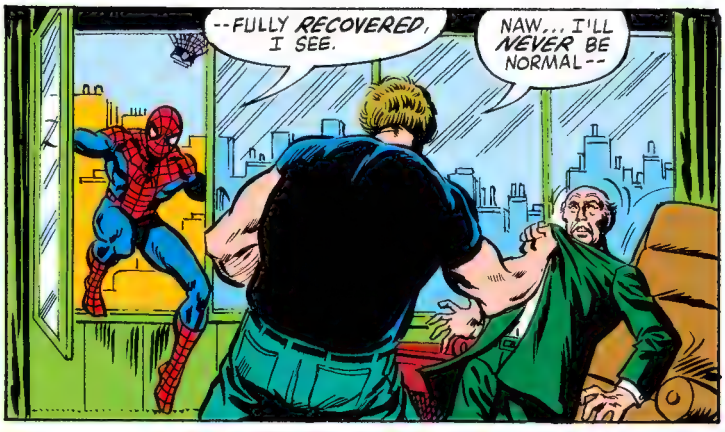

TWENTY-FIVE...
SHEESH! I'M REDUCED TO BEING A PEEPING-SPIDEY!
THE INDIGNITY OF IT--!
MAY AS WELL TRY INSIDE.

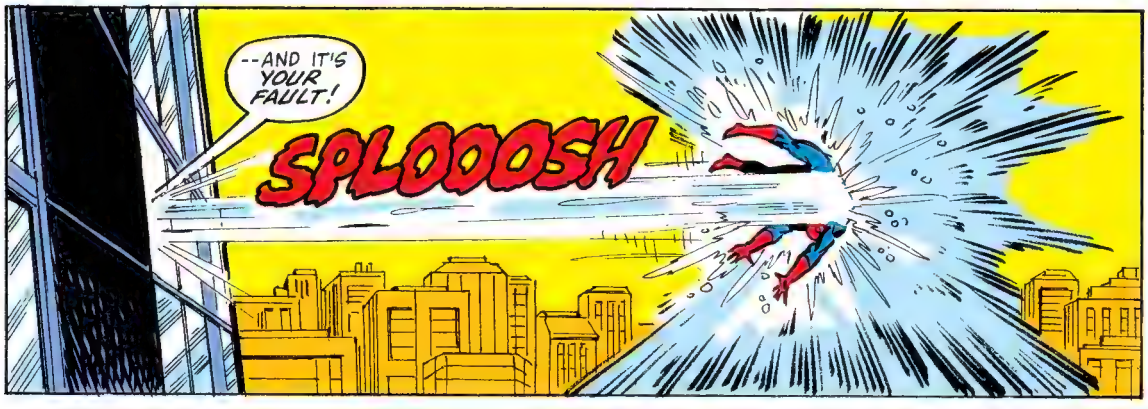
EIGHTEEN...
DON'T MIND ME, FOLKS. I'M JUST HANGING AROUND.
LITTLE JOKE.
TERRIBLE LITTLE JOKE.

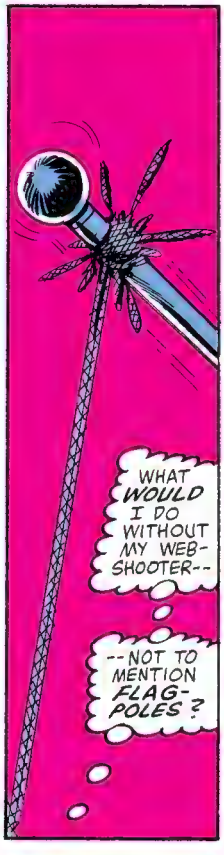

TWELVE...
I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL POSITIVELY SLEAZY!

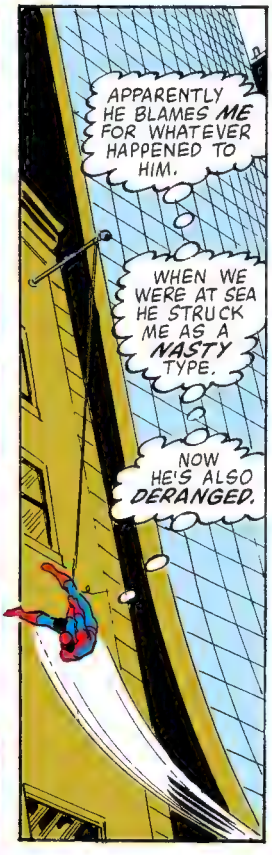

NINE...
STILL ZIP!

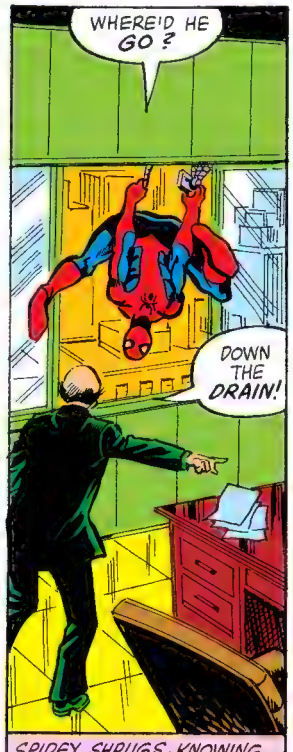

SIX SECONDS...
UH-OH... MY SPIDER-SENSE IS KICKING LIKE A CHORUS GIRL.
I'M ABOUT TO HIT THE JACKPOT--!
BETTER SET UP THE OL' BELT CAMERA!



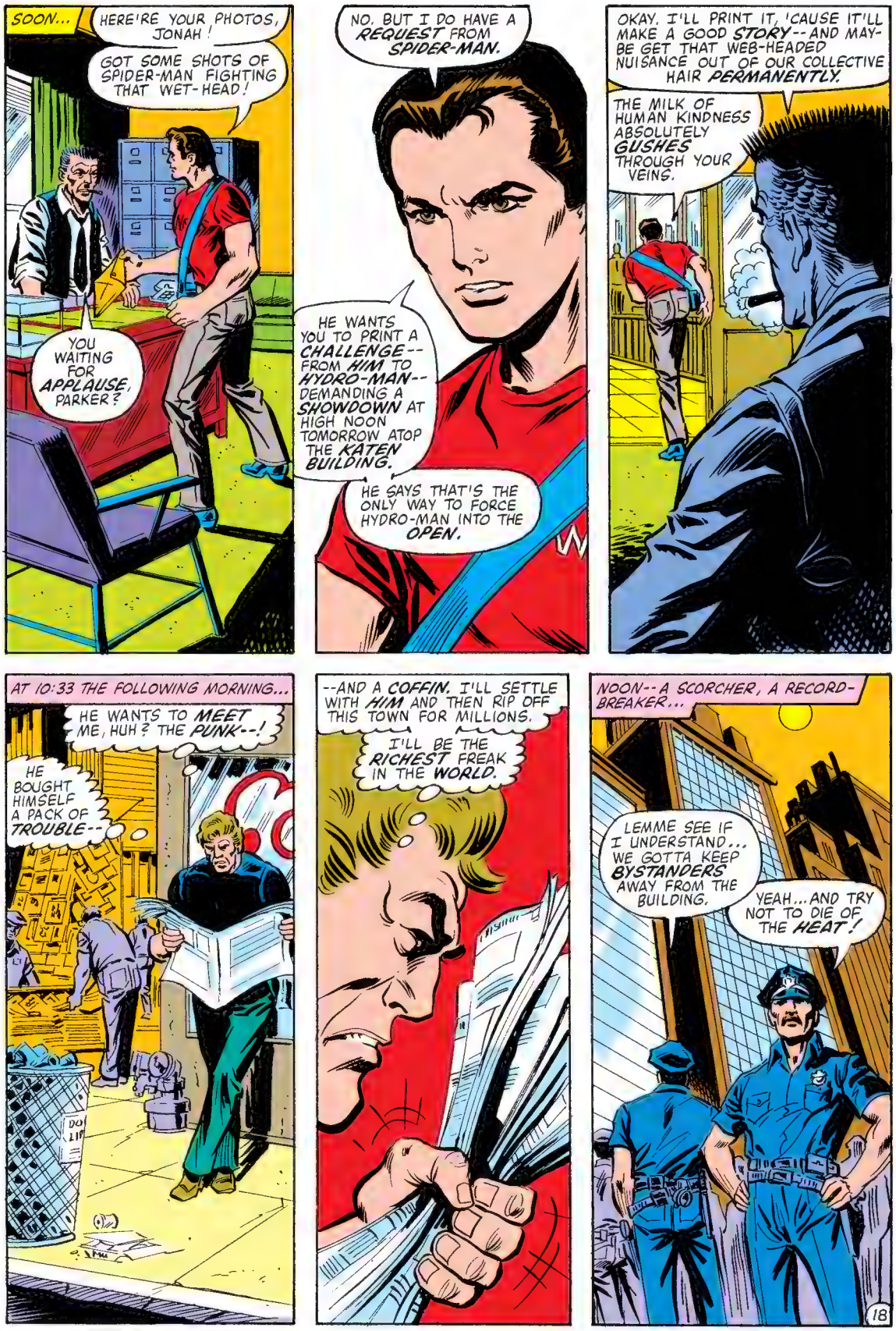


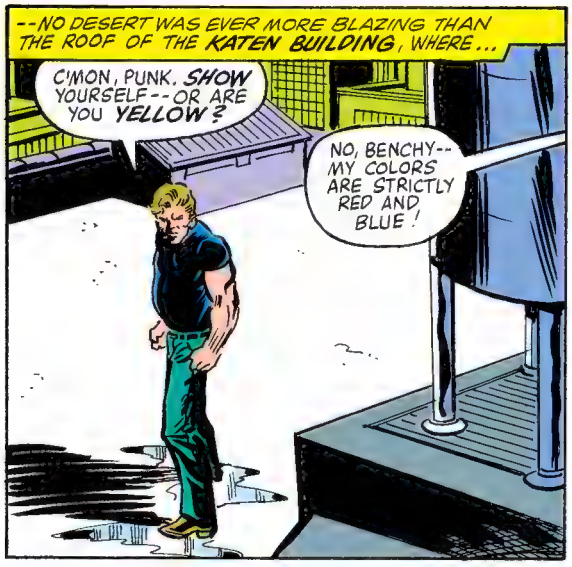


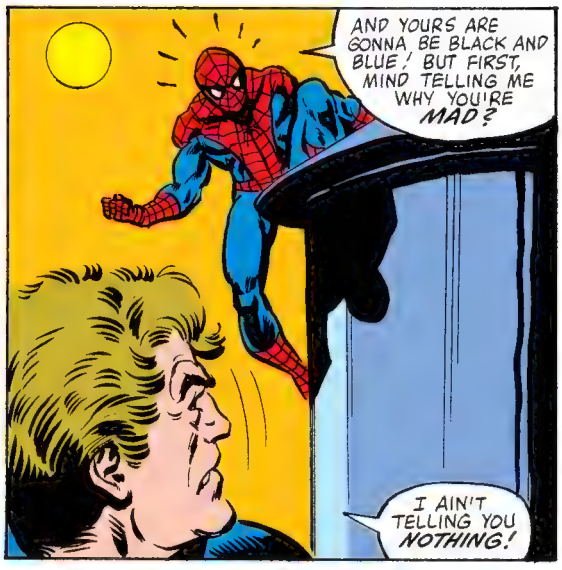


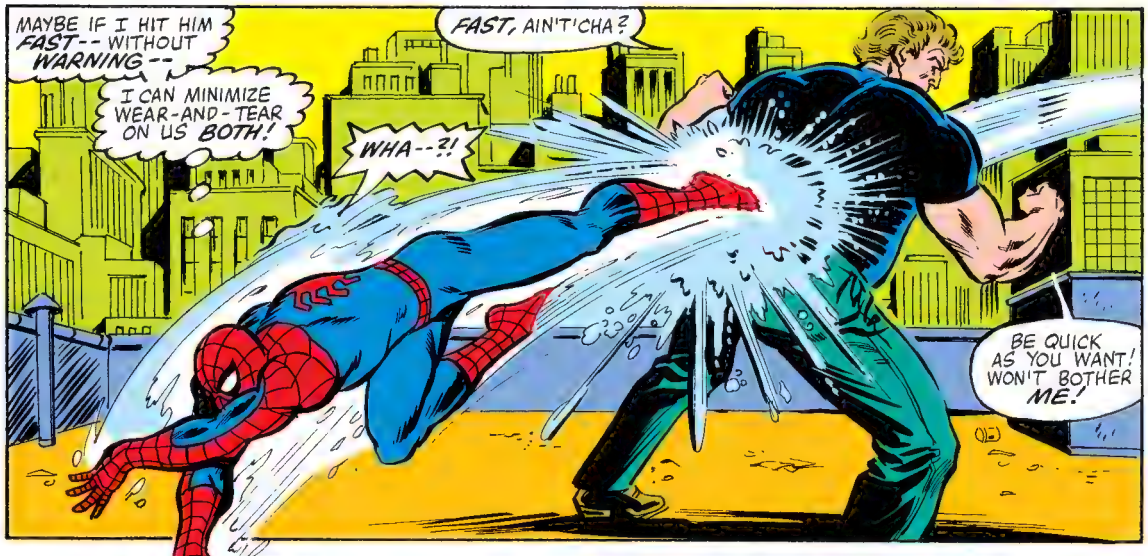


SPIDEY SHRUGS, KNOWING THAT BENCH COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTLESS MILES OF PLUMBING BENEATH THE METROPOLIS...

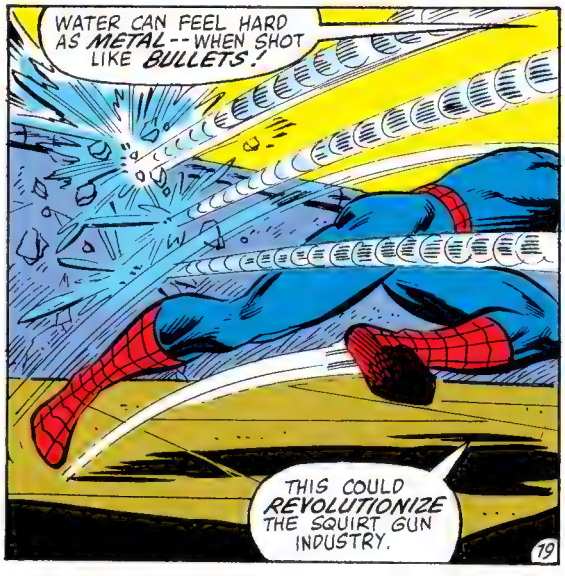

SOON...
HERE'RE YOUR PHOTOS, JONAH!
GOT SOME SHOTS OF SPIDER-MAN FIGHTING THAT WET-HEAD!
YOU WAITING FOR APPLAUSE, PARKER?
NO. BUT I DO HAVE A REQUEST FROM SPIDER-MAN.
HE WANTS YOU TO PRINT A CHALLENGE-- FROM HIM TO HYDRO-MAN-- DEMANDING A SHOWDOWN AT HIGH NOON TOMORROW ATOP THE KATEN BUILDING.
HE SAYS THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO FORCE HYDRO-MAN INTO THE OPEN.
OKAY. I'LL PRINT IT, 'CAUSE IT'LL MAKE A GOOD STORY--AND MAYBE GET THAT WEB-HEADED NUISANCE OUT OF OUR COLLECTIVE HAIR PERMANENTLY.
THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS ABSOLUTELY GUSHES THROUGH YOUR VEINS.
AT 10:33 THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
HE WANTS TO MEET ME, HUH? THE PUNK--!
HE BOUGHT HIMSELF A PACK OF TROUBLE--
--AND A COFFIN. I'LL SETTLE WITH HIM AND THEN RIP OFF THIS TOWN FOR MILLIONS.
I'LL BE THE RICHEST FREAK IN THE WORLD.
NOON--A SCORCHER, A RECORD-BREAKER...
LEMME SEE IF I UNDERSTAND... WE GOTTA KEEP BYSTANDERS AWAY FROM THE BUILDING.
YEAH...AND TRY NOT TO DIE OF THE HEAT!

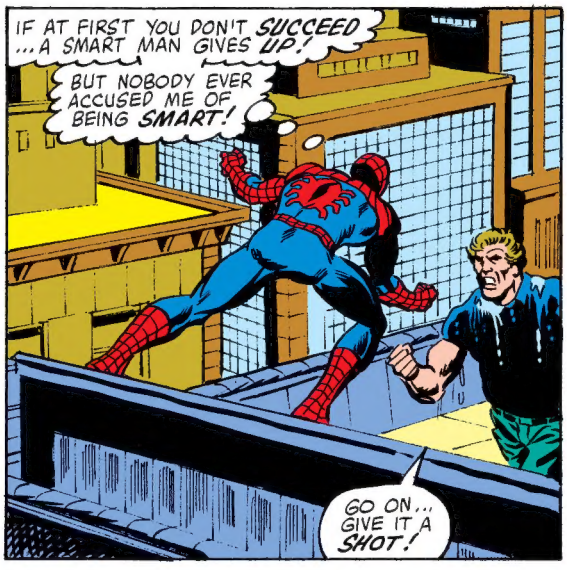

--NO DESERT WAS EVER MORE BLAZING THAN THE ROOF OF THE KATEN BUILDING, WHERE...
C'MON, PUNK. SHOW YOURSELF--OR ARE YOU YELLOW?
NO, BENCHY--MY COLORS ARE STRICTLY RED AND BLUE!


AND YOURS ARE GONNA BE BLACK AND BLUE! BUT FIRST, MIND TELLING ME WHY YOU'RE MAD?
I AIN'T TELLING YOU NOTHING!

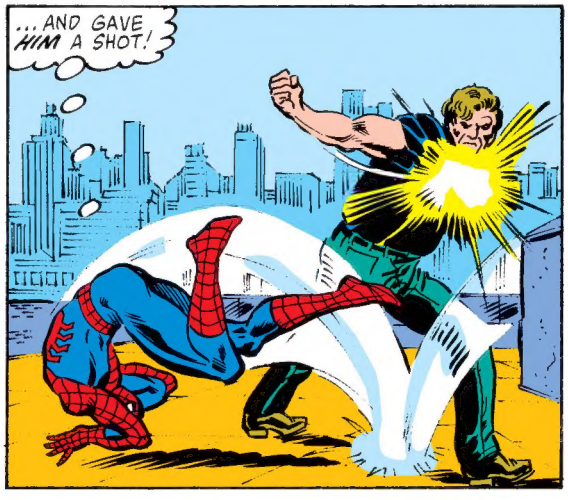

MAYBE IF I HIT HIM FAST--WITHOUT WARNING--
I CAN MINIMIZE WEAR-AND-TEAR ON US BOTH!
FAST, AIN'T'CHA?
WHA--?!
BE QUICK AS YOU WANT! WON'T BOTHER ME!

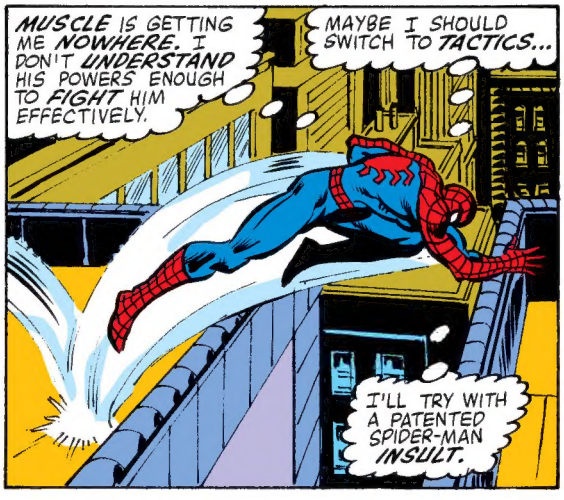
HOO BOY I GOT PROBLEMS!
I BEEN FOOLIN' AROUND DOWN IN THE SEWERS... FIGURIN' OUT SOME TRICKS I CAN DO--
YOU AREN'T GONNA KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE, ARE YOU?


WATER CAN FEEL HARD AS METAL--WHEN SHOT LIKE BULLETS!
THIS COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE SQUIRT GUN INDUSTRY.


IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED ...A SMART MAN GIVES UP!
BUT NOBODY EVER ACCUSED ME OF BEING SMART!
GO ON... GIVE IT A SHOT!

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY RESIST SUCH A CHARMING INVITATION ?
I WAS EXPECTING SOLID RESISTANCE INSTEAD OF LIQUID-- PUT ME OFF BALANCE...

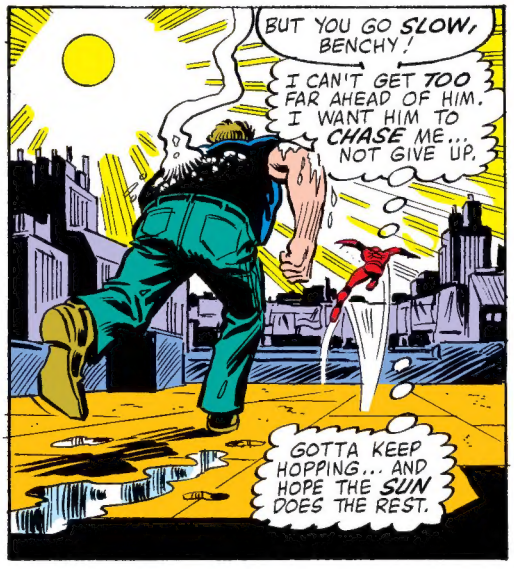

...AND GAVE HIM A SHOT!


MUSCLE IS GETTING ME NOWHERE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIS POWERS ENOUGH TO FIGHT HIM EFFECTIVELY.
MAYBE I SHOULD SWITCH TO TACTICS...
I'LL TRY WITH A PATENTED SPIDER-MAN INSULT.

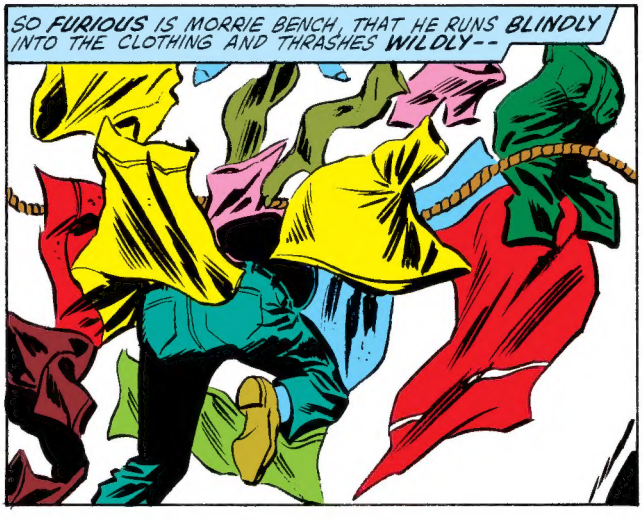
YOU AND SANDMAN OUGHT TO JOIN FORCES... YOU COULD MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUD PIES TOGETHER.
BRO-THER! I THINK I JUST HIT A NEW LOW--

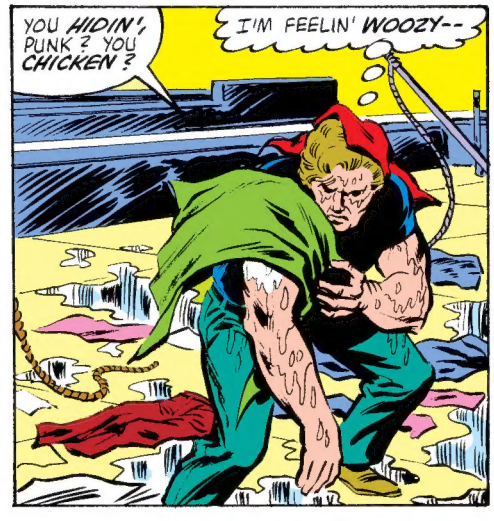
--BUT IT WORKED. HE'S MAD.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE--

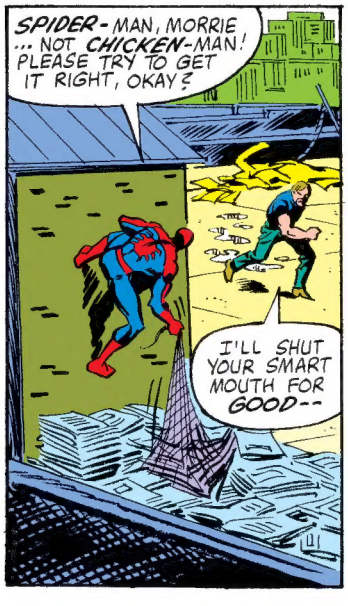
--'CAUSE I CAN GO ANYWHERE YOU CAN--
--AND SOME PLACES YOU CAN'T.

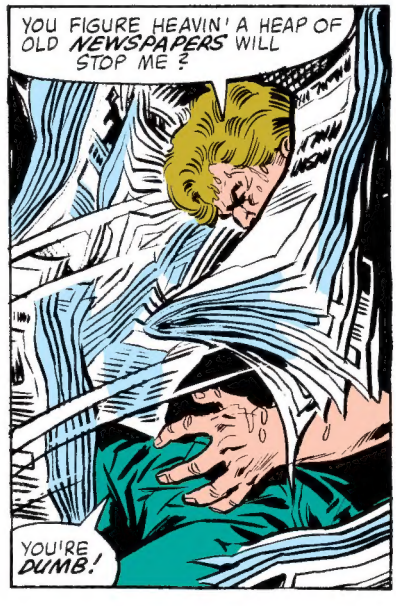

BUT YOU GO SLOW, BENCHY!
I CAN'T GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF HIM. I WANT HIM TO CHASE ME... NOT GIVE UP.
GOTTA KEEP HOPPING... AND HOPE THE SUN DOES THE REST.

SOMEBODY'S LAUNDRY. IT CAN ONLY HELP.

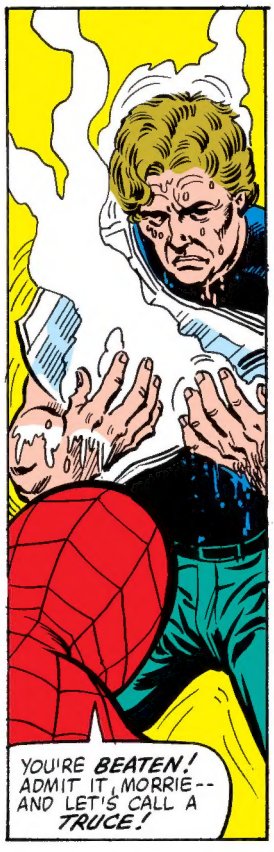

SO FURIOUS IS MORRIE BENCH, THAT HE RUNS BLINDLY INTO THE CLOTHING AND THRASHES WILDLY--

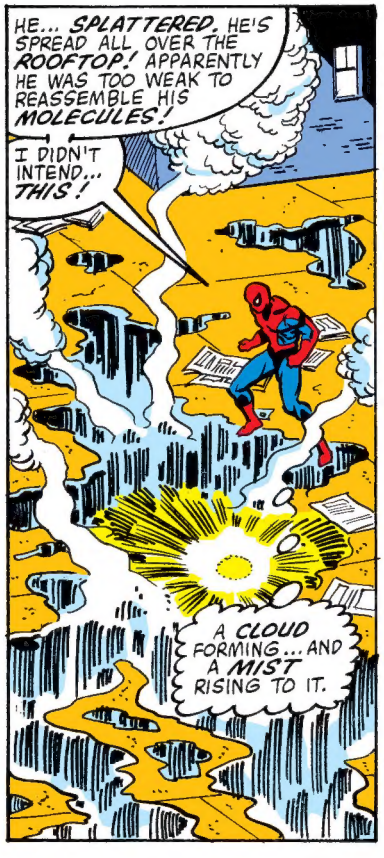

YOU HIDIN', PUNK? YOU CHICKEN?
I'M FEELIN' WOOZY--

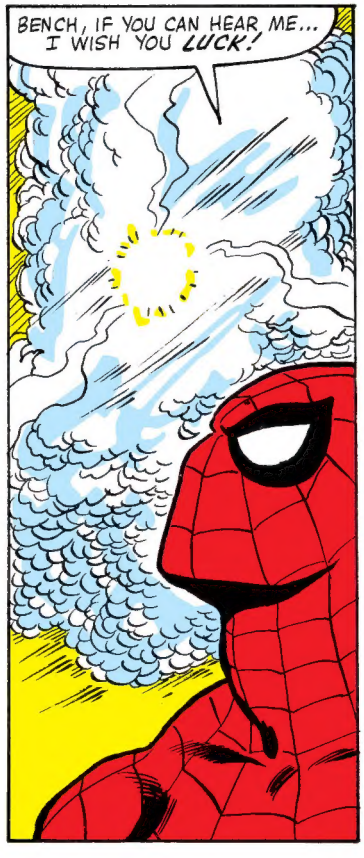

SPIDER-MAN, MORRIE ... NOT CHICKEN-MAN! PLEASE TRY TO GET IT RIGHT, OKAY?
I'LL SHUT YOUR SMART MOUTH FOR GOOD--

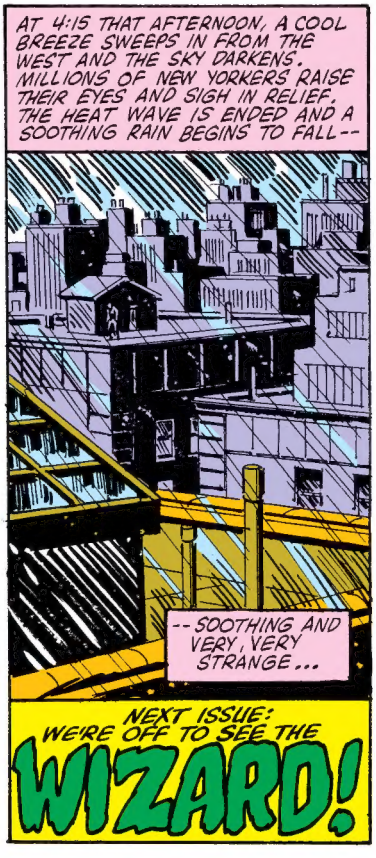

YOU FIGURE HEAVIN' A HEAP OF OLD NEWSPAPERS WILL STOP ME?
YOU'RE DUMB!

NOT ME! THE PAPERS WILL ABSORB SOME OF THE MOISTURE DRIPPING OFF YOU--AS DID THE CLOTHING YOU RAN INTO.









NEXT ISSUE: WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE **WIZARD!**

Shadowcat